

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/819,821

Examiner

Ramsey Zacharia

Applicant(s)

ROGER, MICHEL

Art Unit

1773

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 02 August 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 34,37-42,44-52 and 57-59.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 082004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James J. Bindseil on 24 August 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:
claims 53-56 and 60-62 have been cancelled.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The invention of claim 34 is directed to a part for a motor vehicle which is adapted to house and transport fuel. The part comprises a rubber portion and a polytetrafluoroethylene coating directly bonded to the surface of the rubber between the rubber and the fuel. The coating has a thickness of around a few tens of microns and reduces the transmission of hydrocarbons through the coating portion of the part to not more than 2 g/24 hours.

The invention of claim 38 is directed to part for a motor vehicle which is adapted to contact fuel comprising a plastic or rubber portion and a polytetrafluoroethylene coating bonded to the surface of the portion between the portion and the fuel. The coating has a thickness of around a few tens of microns and reduces the transmission of hydrocarbons through the coating portion of the part to not more than 2 g/24 hours. The portion is either an O-ring or valve membrane.

The inventions of claims 44, 45, and 47 are directed to methods comprising depositing a polytetrafluoroethylene coating having a thickness of around a few tens of microns onto a rubber or plastic portion, wherein the coating is sufficient to reduce the transmission of hydrocarbons through the coating portion of the part to not more than 2 g/24 hours.

Martucci represents the closest prior art. however, Martucci does not teach or fairly suggest a part comprising a polytetrafluoroethylene coating directly bonded to a rubber portion that also has a thickness of around a few tens of microns and is sufficient to reduce the transmission of hydrocarbons through the coating portion of the part to not more than 2 g/24 hours. Martucci also does not teach or fairly suggest an article that is an O-ring or valve membrane. Nor does Martucci teach or fairly suggest a method of forming the part by applying the polytetrafluoroethylene as a coating onto a plastic part. Rather, Martucci forms a polytetrafluoroethylene tube and then coats the tube with a polyamide composition.

Claims 53-56 and 60 were cancelled by Examiner's amendment for at least the reason that the limiting the thickness to "10 to less than 25 microns" would represent new matter that was not supported by the originally filed disclosure. Claims 61 and 62 were cancelled by Examiner's amendment for at least the reason that they did not contain the limitations recited above that made claim 34 allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramsey Zacharia whose telephone number is (571) 272-1518.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Jones, can be reached on (571) 272-1535. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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